

Amendments

In the Claims:

Please substitute claims 1, 3, 6-13, 15, 17-26, 28-29, and 31-32 presented below for claims 1, 3, 6-13, 15, 17-26, 28-29, and 31-32 previously presented. Please cancel claims 4-5, 14, 27, and 30. Please add claims 33-36. The status of each claim is indicated. Currently amended claims are shown with additions underlined and deletions in ~~strikethrough~~.

1. (Previously amended) A ureteral stent for placement in a ureter comprising:

an elongated body portion defining a lumen, said body portion comprising a proximal end for placement within one of a ureter and a bladder of a patient, a distal end for placement within a kidney of the patient, a proximal portion, and a distal portion; and;

a retention module disposed proximal to said proximal end of said elongated body portion for retaining a portion of the stent in the bladder, said retention module comprising at least one bead having a diameter between 3 and 10 millimeters, the at least one bead being attached to the elongated body portion by at least one tether connector, wherein the at least one bead is substantially buoyant relative to urine.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously amended) The ureteral stent of claim 1, wherein the at least one bead has a size and configuration that prohibits the passage of the at least one bead from the bladder into a lumen of a ureter.

4.-5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously amended) The ureteral stent of claim 1, wherein said proximal portion of said elongated body portion is substantially more compressible than the other portions of said elongated body portion.

7. (Previously amended) The ureteral stent of claim 1, wherein the retention module includes a plurality of beads.

8. (Previously amended) The ureteral stent of claim 1, wherein said at least one tether connector is substantially elastic.

9. (Previously amended) The ureteral stent of claim 1, wherein said tether connector is substantially rigid.

10. (Previously amended) The ureteral stent of claim 1, wherein said distal portion of said elongated body portion comprises a planar spiral loop for retention in the renal pelvis.

11. (Previously amended) The ureteral stent of claim 1, wherein said elongated body portion is substantially rigid to prevent its deformation during insertion through the ureter.

12. (Previously amended) The ureteral stent of claim 1, wherein said elongated body portion defines a plurality of openings along its length.

13. (Previously amended) The ureteral stent of claim 1, wherein the at least one bead is substantially spherical.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously amended) A method of treating at least partial ureteral obstruction of a patient, comprising:

(a) providing a medical device comprising an elongated body portion defining a lumen, the body portion comprising a proximal end for placement in one of a ureter and a bladder of the patient, a distal end for placement in a kidney of the patient, a proximal portion, and a distal portion, the medical device further comprising a retention module disposed proximal to said proximal end of the elongated body portion, said retention module comprising at least one bead attached to the elongated body portion by at least one tether connector, the bead having a diameter between 3 and 10 millimeters, the bead being substantially buoyant relative to urine; and

(b) inserting the medical device into the patient such that the at least one bead is positioned in the bladder of the patient.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the at least one bead has a size and configuration that prohibits the passage of the bead from the bladder into a lumen of a ureter.
18. (Previously amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the retention module has a plurality of beads.
19. (Previously amended) The method of claim 15, wherein said at least one tether connector is substantially elastic.
20. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein said tether connector is substantially rigid.
21. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein said distal portion comprises a planar spiral loop for retention in the renal pelvis.
22. (Previously amended) The method of claim 15, wherein said elongated body portion is substantially rigid to prevent its deformation during insertion through the ureter.
23. (Previously amended) The method of claim 15, wherein said elongated body portion defines a plurality of openings along its length.

24. (Previously amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the bead is substantially spherical.

25. (Previously amended) The method of claim 24, wherein the diameter of the bead is greater than the diameter of a lumen of a ureter.

26. (Previously amended) A medical device for use within a body cavity, the medical device comprising:

an elongated body portion defining a lumen, said elongated body portion comprising a proximal end for placement within one of a ureter and a bladder of a patient, a distal end for placement within a kidney of the patient, a proximal portion and a distal portion and said elongated body portion including a plurality of pores, said distal portion comprising a planar spiral; and

a plurality of retention modules, at least one of said plurality of retention modules being attached to said proximal end of said elongated body portion, said at least one of said plurality of retention modules comprising at least one substantially spherical bead attached to the proximal end of said elongated body portion by a substantially elastic tether connector, said bead having a diameter between 3 and 10 millimeters and being substantially buoyant relative to urine.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously amended) The ureteral stent of claim 1, wherein said bead is substantially spherical, substantially oval, substantially tear-shaped, or substantially peanut-shaped.

29. (Previously amended) The ureteral stent of claim 1, wherein said bead is made of a polymer.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously amended) The method of claim 15, wherein said bead is substantially spherical, substantially oval, substantially tear-shaped, or substantially peanut-shaped.

32. (Previously amended) The method of claim 15, wherein said bead is made of a polymer.

33. (Currently Amended) A ureteral stent for placement in a ureter comprising:

an elongated body portion defining a lumen, the body portion comprising a proximal end, a distal end, a proximal portion, and a distal portion, the proximal portion of the elongated body portion is substantially more compressible than the other portions of the elongated body portion; and

a retention module disposed proximal to the proximal end of the elongated body portion, the retention module having a first fixation element attached to the elongated body portion by a tether connector, the retention module having a second fixation element attached to the elongated body portion.

34. (Currently amended) The ureteral stent of claim 33, wherein the retention module~~fixation element~~ has a size and configuration that prohibits the passage of the fixation element from a bladder of a patient into a lumen of a ureter of the patient.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently amended) A ureteral stent for placement in a ureter comprising:

an elongated body portion defining a lumen, the body portion comprising a proximal end, a distal end, a proximal portion, and a distal portion, the proximal portion of the elongated body portion is substantially more compressible than the other portions of the elongated body portion; and

a retention module disposed proximal to the proximal end of the elongated body portion, the retention module having a first fixation element and~~The ureteral stent of claim 33, the fixation element being a first fixation element, the retention module having~~ a second fixation element attached to the elongated body portion by a~~the~~ tether connector.

37. (New) The ureteral stent of claim 33, wherein the first fixation element includes a substantially planar spiral.

38. (New) The ureteral stent of claim 33, wherein the first fixation element includes a substantially helical spiral.

39. (New) A ureteral stent for placement in a ureter comprising:

an elongated body portion defining a lumen, the body portion having a proximal end and a distal end; and

a retention module disposed proximal to the proximal end of the elongated body portion, the retention module having a first fixation element attached to the elongated body portion by a tether connector, the retention module having a second fixation element attached to the elongated body portion.

40. (New) The ureteral stent of claim 39, wherein the first fixation element includes a substantially planar spiral.

41. (New) The ureteral stent of claim 39, wherein the first fixation element includes a substantially helical spiral.